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BOROUGH OF BLANDFORD FORUM
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1952.



B O R O U G H O F B L A N D F O R D F O R U M

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1952

Public Health Department,
Civic Centre,
Wimborne.

TO:-

His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Blandford.

The Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough is submitted for your information and consideration.

Much of the routine sanitary work of the Public Health Department has not been carried out, nor can be, until the department is adequately staffed.

The Borough was fortunate in having the honorary services of Mr. Tait, a retired Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, until March. From that date, Mr. W.E. Ramm began his duties as Borough Engineer, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.


I have much appreciated the help and co-operation given to me by my professional colleagues in practice in the Borough.

In conclusion, I wish to thank members of the Council and other Council officials who have extended to me courtesy and assistance.

J.B.M. Mayes.

JULY 1953.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



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1952.

B O R O U G H O F B L A N D F O R D

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR

Councillor C.B. Faulkner.

DEPUTY MAYOR

Councillor Mrs. E.M. Biddulph.

ALDERMEN

Miss E.G. Castleman-Smith, M.B.E., J.P.

D.S. Cuff.

B.C. Hunt.

W.J. Newman.

COUNCILLORS:-

D. Gent.

G.R.J. Haskott.

R.J.W. King.

C.M. Timbrell.

Miss A.A. Williams.

J.L. Cartor.

P.P. King.

R.C.H. Legg.

J. Trickett.

F. Wyatt.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J.B.M. Mayes, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

TEMPORARY SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

L. Tait, C.E., C.R.S.I - January to March.

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

W.E. Ramm. M.R. San. I., M.S.I.A., R.P - appointed March.

VETERINARY SURGEONS

Major F. Beckett, F.R.C.V.S., and his Staff
(acting as Meat Inspector)

SECTION A

1. Area of the Borough..... 253 acres.
2. Population as estimated by Registrar-General
at 30th June, 1952.....3566.
3. Total number of inhabited houses on
31st December, 1952.....1254
4. Rateable value at 1st April, 1952.....£27, 033.
Sum represented by penny rate..... £104.10.0

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS
for the year - 1952

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Total registered.....	51	26	25
Legitimate.....	49	26	23
Illegitimate.....	2	-	2
<u>STILLBIRTHS</u>			
Total registered (legitimate).....	2	2	0
<u>DEATHS</u>			
Total registered.....	49	23	26
<u>INFANT MORTALITY</u>			
Deaths of infants under one year of age:-			
Total registered (legitimate).....	1	0	1

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

	<u>Blandford</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated home population.....	14.3.	15.3.
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 home population. 0.51.		0.35
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated home population.....	11.13.	11.3
Death rate of infants under one year of age.....	19.61.	27.6
per 1,000 related live births.		

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING
YEAR - 1952.

<u>CAUSE.</u>	<u>MALE.</u>	<u>FEMALE.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1. Cancer.....	4	1	5
2. Vascular lesions of nervous system..	5	6	11
3. Coronary Disease.....	3	1	4
4. Hypertension with Heart Disease.....	1	0	1
5. Other diseases of the heart.....	4	12	16
6. Other circulatory diseases.....	1	1	2
7. Pneumonia.....	1	1	2
8. Bronchitis.....	1	1	2
9. Other diseases of respiratory system	0	1	1
10. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum.....	1	0	1
11. All other causes.....	2	2	4

COMMENTS ON THE VITAL STATISTICS.

The Birth Rate for 1952 has fallen. 14.30 in 1952,
18.84 in 1951, 18.33 in 1950.
Live births exceed the number of deaths by two.
Two stillbirths have been recorded.

The crude Birth Rate was 14.30 per 1,000 estimated home
population. By applying the Comparability Factor of 1.03,
the standardised Birth Rate was 14.73

SECTION B
GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

The Public Health Laboratory service at Dorchester has continued to give the district generous service. The Laboratory undertakes the bacteriological examination of water, milk, ice cream and other foods. It also examines specimens for diagnosis in the case of infections, or suspected infectious diseases.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Ambulance Service of the district is under the jurisdiction of the Dorset County Council, operating day and night from Castloman House. This service also covers the Rural District.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

The Dorset County Council provide an Infant Welfare Centre once a fortnight at the Congregational Hall.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

The Dorset County Council provide an Ante-Natal Clinic once a fortnight at the Congregational Hall.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The Domestic Help Service has continued in Blandford during 1952 under the jurisdiction of the Dorset County Council.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA - WATER

The water is supplied by the Blandford Water Undertaking, owned by the Council. The two sources of water are at Black Lane and Blandford St. Mary. The former, a borehole together with a group of "shallow wells" and adits, and the latter a "shallow well" with an adit. The depth of the borehole is 100 feet.

During the year both supplies were chlorinated, at Black Lane the chlorine was passed into a venturi throat in the rising main to the reservoir, the supply at Blandford St. Mary was chlorinated by a drip feed into the well. New extensions have been made to the mains. An extension of the 3" main in Milldown Road replaced a defective length of pipe and the supply in the area has improved. An extension of the 3" main was also made to the swimming baths.

One new 6" main was laid down in Black Lane which connects with the East Street mains and the other main has been laid from the Market Place to a point over Blandford Bridge. This latter will supply the Blandford Rural District with a bulk water supply.

The water supply was adequate throughout the year except in the late summer, when consumers were asked to be especially careful with water as increased consumption caused **shortage** to a small number of consumers living at a high level.

The results of the samples taken through the year were satisfactory. The need for constant and careful chlorination of both supplies is essential as both are potential sources of easy pollution.

The estimated total pumped into the supply during 1952 was 139,502,200 gallons, but as part of this was consumed by the Rural District, exact town figures are not available.

<u>Blandford St. Mary</u>	5 samples taken - all Class 1
<u>New Borehole at Black Lane</u>	1 sample taken - Class 1.
<u>Black Lane Pumping Station</u>	8 samples taken - 7 Class 1, 1 Class 2.
<u>Distribution Mains</u>	18 samples taken - all Class 1

Twenty eight new premises in the town were connected to the mains during the year.

191 houses are supplied with standpipes, the remainder have water inside the premises.

One sample was taken for chemical analysis from each of the three sources of supply, the results were as follows:-

Blandford St. Mary's Pumping Station

January 10th, 1952.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above mentioned sample with the following results (expressed as parts per million):-

Ammonia, free.....	0.008
Ammonia, albuminoid.....	0.024.
Nitrates.....	Absent.
Nitrates as Nitric Nitrogen.....	2.85
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins. at 80 deg.F..	0.569
" " " 4 hrs " "	0.828
Chlorine.....	21.5
as Sodium Chloride.....	35.43.
Hardness temporary.....	227.50
Hardness permanent.....	35.00
Hardness total.....	262.50
Total Solids.....	652.0
Ph Value.....	7.3
Metals: Iron, Zinc, Copper.....	Absent.
Lead.....	Absent
Colour.....	Colourless and very slightly turbid.
Odour.....	None

Remarks

This is a very satisfactory water, hard in character and shows no sign of any form of pollution. From a chemical point of view it is very suitable for both drinking and domestic purposes.

18th January, 1952.

Arthur S. Carlos B.Sc(Lond)
F.R.I.C.
Public Analyst.

Black Lane Pumping Station - Bore-hole

August 28th, 1952.

I hereby certify that I have examined the above mentioned sample with the following results (expressed as parts per million):-

Ammonia, free.....	0.048
Ammonia, Albuminoid.....	0.064.
Nitrates.....	Absent.
Nitrates, as Nitric Nitrogen.....	2.30
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins at 80 deg.F..	0.677
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours " "	0.911
Chlorine.....	24.0
as Sodium Chloride.....	39.55
Hardness temporary.....	215.0
Hardness permanent.....	35.0
Hardness total.....	250.0
Total Solids.....	344.0
Ph Value.....	7.4

[illegible]

Metals: Iron, Copper, Zinc, Lead.....Absent
 Colour..... Colourless and Clear.
 Odour.....None

Remarks

This is a clear bright water, fairly hard in character, but the majority of the hardness is removed by boiling. The water is entirely free from contamination, and is, in my opinion, eminently suitable for both drinking and domestic purposes.

Arthur S. Carlos B.Sc., (Lond)
 F.R.I.C.

4th September, 1952.

Black Lane Pumping Station - Shallow Well

28th September, 1952.

Ammonia, free.....0.032.
 Ammonia albuminoid.....0.096
 Nitrates.....Absent
 Nitrates as Nitric Nitrogen.....2.06
 Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins. at 80 deg. F.....0.232.
 " " " 4 hours.....0.456.
 Chlorine.....23.0
 as Sodium Chloride.....37.90
 Hardness, temporary.....221.25.
 Hardness permanent..... 35.0
 Hardness total.....256.25
 Total solids.....388.0
 Ph. Value..... 7.4
 Metals: Iron, Copper, Zinc, Lead.....Absent
 Colour.....Colourless and Clear.
 Odour.....None

Remarks

This is a clear bright water, hard in character. The above analysis shows no pollution, and in my opinion, the water is very suitable for both drinking and domestic purposes.

Arthur S. Carlos B. Sc (Lond)
 F.R.I.C.

3rd October, 1952.

Public Analyst.

SWIMMING BATHS

The baths were opened from June 27th until September 11th. The Council has made some improvement in the condition of the baths, but the public is not adequately safeguarded, the conditions prevailing do not comply with the standards laid down in the Model Bye-Laws drafted by the Ministry of Health.

Nine samples of water were taken from the Swimming Baths for bacteriological examination and all proved satisfactory. The chlorine content of the water in the bath never reached a satisfactory amount, due to the baths being neither watertight nor being equipped with a properly constructed filtration plant, and the "turnover period" was far too long.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

No major work was carried out during the year. The sewage disposal works have been working as well as can be expected, but they are unable to work efficiently, large scale repairs being necessary.

The Public Analyst reported on the condition of the sewage effluent at the Blandford Sewage Works on the 22nd July, 1952, as follows:-

Sewage Effluent "A". Taken at Outlet from Sedimentation Tanks.

The analysis of Effluent "A" shows that the suspended solids present are 164 p.p.m. This is a fairly high figure, but as none of the crude sewage was submitted for analysis it is not possible to assess the efficiency of sedimentation. The McGowan's figure calculated from the analysis is 65.7. The figure for dissolved oxygen absorbed in five days, i.e. 75.1 is fairly satisfactory for an effluent at this state of putrifaction.

Sewage Effluent "B" taken at inlet of humus tanks after aeration treatment.

The Analysis of effluent "B" when compared with "A", shows that there is a decrease on the dissolved oxygen absorbed of 8.7 p.p.m. This in my opinion, is not sufficient, and indicates that insufficient aeration is taking place. The suspended solids are very high, i.e. 120 p.p.m. There is a great improvement in the Impurity Figure.

Sewage Effluent "C", taken at outlet end of humus tanks.

The analysis of effluent "C" compared with "B" indicates that the suspended solids have been reduced by a large amount to 32 p.p.m. This is 2 p.p.m above the figure recommended by the Royal Commission on Sewage disposal. The figure for dissolved oxygen absorbed in five days, i.e. 48 p.p.m. is very high, but shows a considerable reduction on those of the former sample. It still fails, however, to comply with the requirements of the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal, which stipulate not more than 20 p.p.m. The Impurity Figure is rather high, the generally accepted standards being under 15 before discharge into a river.

Sewage Effluent "D", taken at submerged outlet from plant into river.

The analysis of sample "D" is not satisfactory for an effluent discharged into a river and would cause pollution. It will be noticed that both the suspended solids and the dissolved oxygen absorbed in five days show a considerable increase on those of the sample taken at the outlet end of the humus tanks. This may possibly be due to unsatisfactory sampling at the submerged outlet due to accumulation of solids.

Conclusion

From the consideration of the attached analysis, I am of the opinion that the suspended solids passing from outlet of sedimentation tanks is interfering with efficient aeration, with the result that the humus beds are overtaxed.

Arthur S. Carlos B. Sc (Lond)
F.R.I.C.

22nd July, 1952.

Public Analyst.

DRY REFUSE

Household refuse is collected from the town once weekly and the Council control one tip. This tip is not satisfactory, cover material is inadequate and the incinerator has not worked efficiently.

Summary of Sanitary Inspectors' Annual Tabular
Statements.

Water Undertaking.....	227
Sewage Works and Sewers.....	53
Swimming Baths.....	85
Recreation Grounds and Gardens.....	14
Municipal Buildings.....	34
Allotments.....	3
Council Yard.....	33
Refuse Service - including Tip.....	15
Council Houses, including requisitioned houses	312
Infectious diseases investigated.....	2
Highways.....	89
Building Byelaws & Town & Country Planning....	116
Food Premises and Food.....	49
Ice Cream Premises.....	34
Petroleum Installations.....	16
Pest Control.....	4
Building Licensing.....	2
Public Health Act.....	106
Housing Act.....	8
Pet Animal Act.....	4
Other visits not classified in above.....	85

The number of inspections made in connection with food premises, workshops, factories and dwelling houses have been far too few.

This cannot be remedied while the Council employs one part time Sanitary Inspector and a part time clerical assistant.

SLAUGHTER HOUSE

The present buildings continued to be used throughout the year. The meat inspection has been carried out by a firm of Veterinary Surgeons acting as meat inspectors for the Council.

Inspection of Meat at Abattoir

Weight of meat condemned during the year as unfit
for human consumption..... 19.602 lbs.

Weight of offal condemned during the year as unfit
for human consumption..... 17.936 lbs.

T.B. offal condemned..... 5.091 lbs.

<u>Carcases Inspected and Condemned.</u>	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Goats.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep & Lambs.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
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Number killed.....	1366	685	414	2660	418
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Number inspected.....	1366	685	414	2660	418
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All diseases except T.B. whole carcasses condemned.....	10	-	13	21	37
------------------------------------------------------------	----	---	----	----	----

Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	510	-	14	728	127
-------------------------------------------------------------	-----	---	----	-----	-----

Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.....	38.5%	-	3.38%	27.36%	30.38%
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------	---	-------	--------	--------

Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned.....	8	-	1	-	5
------------------------------------------------------	---	---	---	---	---

Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.....	10.03%	-	0.4%	-	0.71%
--------------------------------------------------------------	--------	---	------	---	-------

Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	133	-	-	-	3
-------------------------------------------------------------	-----	---	---	---	---

RODENT CONTROL

In conjunction with the Blandford Rural District Council, a full time Rodent Operator has looked after the two districts. A table of his work in Blandford Borough is appended:-

<u>TYPE OF VERMIN</u> <u>RATS.</u>	<u>Council</u> <u>Premises.</u>	<u>Private</u> <u>Premises.</u>	<u>Business</u> <u>Premises.</u>	<u>Agric-</u> <u>ultural</u> <u>premises.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
total No. of Visits made.	40	740	47	nil	827
total No. of Premises inspected:-					
a) on complaint.	nil	8	3	nil	11
b) on survey.	9	456	35	1	501
total No. of Premises found infested.					
a) on complaint.	nil	7	2	nil	9
b) on survey.	8	129	4	nil	141
No. of Premises treated.	8	131	3	nil	142
No. of Premises cleared.	8	121	2	nil	131
No. of Premises re-treated and cleared.	nil	3	nil	nil	3
No. of Prebait laid.	452	787	135	nil	1374
No. of Poison Baits laid.	265	441	75	nil	781
No. of instances where other methods used.	nil	nil	2	nil	2
No. (estimated) of rats destroyed.	130	183	20	nil	333
No. of bodies recovered.	36	34	3	nil	73

TYPE OF VERMINMICE.

No. of complaints received.	nil	3	3	nil	6
No. of premises treated.	nil	5	3	nil	8
No. of premises cleared.	nil	5	3	nil	8

MORTUARY

The Danory Street Mortuary has been used on three occasions.

THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937
Part One of the Act.

The number of factories registered..... 42
 The number of inspections made during the year..... 7

<u>PREMISES.</u>	<u>No. on</u> <u>Register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written</u> <u>Noticos.</u>
1. Factories in which no mechanical power is used.....	6	Nil	Nil
<hr/>			
2. Factories in which mechanical power is used.	36	7	2
<hr/>			
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	9	9	Nil

OUTWORKERS

The number of outworkers employed in the district during the year was twenty seven.

No infectious diseases occurred during the year in any of the premises where outworkers were employed.

SECTION D

Owing to lack of staff, no routine inspection of houses has been possible.

COUNCIL HOUSES.

Number of new council houses erected during the year.....	24
Number of new houses under construction but not completed by	
December 31st, 1952.....	36
Total number constructed before 1952....	210

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

Number built in 1952.....	3
---------------------------	---

There are six requisitioned properties.

SECTION EINSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD PREMISES.Ice Cream Premises.

Number of registered Ice Cream Premises.....	15
Samples taken.....	22

Provisional Grade 1.....	12
Provisional Grade 2.....	5
Provisional Grade 3.....	4
Provisional Grade 4.....	1

Provisional Grade.	Time taken to reduce methylene blue.
1	4½ hours or more.
2	2½ - 4 hours.
3	½ - 2 hours.
4	0

Owing to the numerous factors governing the hygienic quality of ice-cream it is unwise to pay too much attention to the bacteriological results on any single sample. Judgment should be based rather on a series of samples. It is suggested that over a six-monthly period, 50 per cent of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade 1. 80 per cent into Grades 1 or 2, not more than 20 per cent. into Grade 3, and none into Grade 4.

Due to inadequacy of staff, far too few samples were taken.

FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.(a) Tinned Food condemned during the year

Evaporated or condensed milk.....	17	Pineapple.....	5
Oranges.....	3	Pilchards.....	4
Sardines.....	18	Salmon.....	4
Brisling.....	1	Peas.....	3
Soup.....	7	Tomatoes.....	22
Beans.....	5	Jam.....	1
Tomato Juice.....	2	Grape Fruit Juice.....	1
Marmalade.....	1	Prunes.....	2
Grapes.....	4	Plums.....	7
Cherries.....	1		

The majority of the above tins were between 8 ozs and 1 lb in weight.

6 lb tin of prunes..... 1
 6 lb tin of peach pulp. 1
 6 lb tin of apples..... 2
 56 lb of apple
 concentrate..... 2

(b) Meat and Fish condemned during year. Tinned.

Luncheon meat.....	19	Total weight.....	18lbs 3ozs.
Pork Brawn.....	8	" "	9lbs 4ozs.
Cooked Ham.....	13	" "	59lbs 12ozs.
Minced Beef Loaf.....	2	" "	14ozs.
Sliced liver in gravy.....	2	" "	14ozs.
Braised Kidneys.....	2	" "	11lbs 8ozs.

Fresh Beef.....	327 lbs.	Fresh Pork.....	178lbs
Ham.....	44 lbs	Fresh Pig Offal.....	18lbs
Smoked Filleted Fish.....	56 lbs.	Kippers.....	98lbs.

(c) List of Food Premises.

Hotels, Inns, Public Houses & Wine Merchants.....	22
Sweet Shops.....	14
Grocers Shops.....	11
Cafes and Cafes with Shops.....	10
Butchers and Cooked Meat Shops.....	8
Fish Merchants and Fried Fish Shops.....	4
Green-Grocers and Fruit Shops.....	6
Confectioners and Bread Shops.....	4
Bakeries.....	4
Ice Cream Premises.....	15

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS 1949

Number of registered milk distributors.....	4
Number of licences issued to sell a special designated milk.....	6

SECTION F
PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Measles.....	2
Scarlet fever.....	4
Erysipelas.....	1

Number of cases on Tuberculosis Register at 31st December, 1952.

Pulmonary.....	9 male.....	9 female.
Non-pulmonary.....	0 male.....	7 female.

Six new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year, four pulmonary and two non-pulmonary. Two patients known to be suffering from tuberculosis came to reside in the area.

There has been no outbreak of food poisoning during the year.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

The Regional Hospital Board arranged for a Mass Radiography Unit to operate in Blandford during October.
The result of this survey appeared satisfactory.

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women.</u>	<u>Children.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total number X-Rayed.....	533	582	193	1308

Number re-called for large films..	14	15	1	30
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Number referred to Chest Clinic..	-	3	1	4
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Number referred to hospital or doctor for other conditions.....	1	1	-	2
-----------------------------------------------------------------	---	---	---	---
